

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6:00 P.M., Monday, May 12, 2008
City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara St, 8th Fl, Room T847
San José, CA 95113

MINUTES

1. **Call To Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Present

Charlie Payne, Chair
Bob Halem
Donald Barnett
Marylou Avanzino
Yolanda Reynolds
Jill Escher
Jim Bell
Lawrence DeSantis
Lane Parker

Absent

Corinne Winter, Vice Chair

Council Liaison

Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio

City Staff

Frances Reyes, Council District 6
John Brazil, DOT

Guests

Dave Finn
Richard Silva
Martin Delson
Akos Szoboszlay

2. **Approve Order of Business** – Approved.
3. **Oral Petitions** – Mr. Delson distributed a handout requesting that the City of San Jose request permission from Caltrans to experiment with “Bicycle May use Full Lane” signs. Mr. Brazil explained that this subject will be addressed in agenda item 6(a). Mr. Szoboszlay distributed a handout from Modern Transit Society requesting that the City request that the County remove all pedestrian prohibitions on all County Expressways.
4. **Approve Minutes of March 10, 2008** – Halem moved approval; Avanzino seconded. The following corrections to the draft minutes were made: agenda item 1 - Luis Mendez and Jim Bell attended the meeting; agenda item 4 - Halem moved approval of the January 14, 2008 minutes and Barnett seconded; agenda item 6(b) Escher asked that the plans encourage median islands as pedestrian harbors, Pineda said he’d investigate and reply to BPAC. The motion passed 9-0-0.
5. **Old Business**
- a. **2008 Bike to Work Day Planning** – Bike to Work Week started this morning with a successful Mayors Ride from Diridon Train Station to City Hall. The ride was led by Mayor Reed and included Councilmembers Oliverio and Williams, County Supervisor Yeager,

Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO Carl Guardino, several high tech executives as well as print and television media representatives. About 100 members of the public joined the ride as well. Bike To Work Week will include the following upcoming activities: (1) Crosstown Bikeway Ribbon Cutting – 12pm Wednesday at city hall rotunda, the Bike/Ped Program will lead a short ride to a ribbon cutting for Route 11, the city's first Crosstown Signed Bikeway; (2) Bike to Work Day Energizer Station – 6am-9am Thursday outside MLK Library, the city will host a rest stop with free bike helmets, free bike tune-ups, free drinks and snacks, as well as a host of bicycling information; and (3) Bike Away From Work Party – 5pm-8pm Thursday at Gordon Biersch, the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition will host this party with free Bike Valet services. Mr. Brazil will coordinate setup, operations, and tear-down of the Energizer Station on Thursday morning. Members Avanzino, Halem, deSantis, and Parker volunteered to help.

b. Ped & ADA Sidewalk Master Plan Updates – No new information

c. Crosstown Signed Bikeway Pilot Project – This project has been completed. As described in item 5(a) above, this Wednesday at noon, a short bike ride will leave city hall at noon for a ribbon cutting event.

d. Wrong Way Signage Pilot Project – The pilot install signs on sections of the following three streets: Brokaw Road, Ocala Road, and San Fernando Street. Staff needs volunteers to help with before and after counts. Due to current workloads and staffing constraints, this project may not be implemented until fiscal year 2008-09.

e. Bike Friendly Signal Detection Pilot Project – No new information. Member Halem suggested the signals at Narvaez at Capitol, and Member Bell recommended signals along Route 11.

f. Bike Lane Projects – In June, City Council will agendaize an item to approve the six bike lane projects previously reviewed and recommended by BPAC. Once the agenda item is officially posted, staff will inform BPAC members. Member Halem suggested “No Parking” signs on the Bird Avenue curve between Coe and Willow.

g. VTA BPAC Update – No new information.

6. New Business

a. Signage: “Bikes Allowed Use of Full Lane” – Mr. Brazil provided a report on proposed roadway signs for bicyclists. Generally, public street signs are regulated by the state (Caltrans). Caltrans establishes standards so that signs are consistent and understandable from one city to the next. National standards also exist and are often adopted by states. Before approving a sign for use, Caltrans or requesting agencies must conduct extensive analysis and testing to determine whether the sign has the desired effect. These studies often involve experimenting with various wording and symbols, conducting before and after analysis of roadway user, as well as other detailed analysis. Caltrans is reluctant to approve a new sign standard unless it can be shown to have a possible measurable impact in achieving the desired intention. The experimentation and approval process generally take one to two years.

Over the last few years, San Francisco and a few other cities have informally experimented with variations of “Bikes Allowed Use of Full Lane” signs. Staff distributed pictures of some with various wording and images. These signs are intended to inform roadway users that, when a travel lane is too narrow for a bicyclists and motorist to share side by side, bicyclists may use the full lane. In that instance, motorists must yield and pass only when safe. These signs are used with the hope of preventing a common problem where motorists pass bicyclists too closely when in a narrow lane.

In 2005, the national standards body (National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) received a proposal for such signs. In 2007, NCUTCD issued a Notice of Proposed Amendment. NCUTCD has not yet approved such a sign. In 2008, Santa Cruz submitted a request to experiment to Caltrans California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC). If experimentation is approved and shows the signs are effective, and if Caltrans approves a standard sign, San José could use them in appropriate settings. Staff will keep BPAC apprised of progress.

7. **Staff Report** – The June agenda will include: (1) a report from the San José International Airport; and (2) a preliminary BPAC discussion on fiscal year 2008-09 priorities.
8. **Committee Member Comments** – Member Avanzino said she’d like BPAC to continue pursuing Airport Area bicycle and pedestrian access improvements. She volunteered to organize an informal walking tour of the area. Member Escher said BPAC needs more pedestrian advocates. Member Bell said that could be a BPAC priority for next year. Member Barnett said because he will soon be having back surgery and bicycling less, he’ll become a stronger pedestrian advocate. Chair Payne asked BPAC to think about what regular reports or work plan items the committee should address – for example, receiving an annual budget report early enough to have some input on the budget process.
9. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Next Meeting Date: Tentatively Scheduled for June 9, 2008.